

# California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Announcement

**Who:** Interested members of the public

**What:** Guidance for the Submission of External Proposed Marine Protected Area Arrays from Community Groups to the MLPA North Coast Study Region process

**When:** Submission deadline for external proposed MPA arrays is Monday, February 1, 2010

**Where:** See details below

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This document details how marine protected area (MPA) arrays submitted by community groups, individuals, organizations, or other entities external to the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG)<sup>1</sup> will be considered in the MLPA Initiative's MPA planning process.

Consistent with previous MLPA study regions, each "external array" must contain certain components to be considered "complete." Complete external arrays must be *submitted no later than **February 1, 2010*** to be evaluated by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT), California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), and MLPA Initiative staff, as well as to gain feedback from the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) and the public. External proposed MPA arrays that meet the requirements for a complete submittal (see below) will be presented to the NCRSG to help inform MPA planning in the MPA design process.

## Consideration of External Arrays in Previous MLPA Study Regions

In previous study regions, groups and individuals "external" to the regional stakeholder group have submitted MPA proposals concurrently as the regional stakeholders developed "internal" arrays and proposals. MLPA Initiative staff forwarded external MPA proposals with broad geographic coverage outlining details of MPAs, including specific boundaries and proposed regulations, to the regional stakeholder group for consideration. Complete external MPA proposals were included in the MPA planning process in a variety of ways. In some cases, a regional stakeholder group incorporated elements of the external MPA ideas into internal MPA proposals. Other external ideas continued as separate MPA proposals and were revised according to feedback from the SAT, DFG, State Parks, BRTF and MLPA Initiative staff. Those external MPA proposals that lacked detailed information, had a narrow geographic focus, or were inconsistent with the goals of the MLPA were not as directly integrated into the regional stakeholder group process, though they still informed MPA planning.

### *Process Adaptations to Better Suit the North Coast Community*

To fully integrate the robust local knowledge available within MLPA North Coast Study Region, community groups and/or individuals are invited to develop external MPA arrays as the first round of MPA proposal development. This revised approach allows north coast community

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the public involved in developing external proposed MPA arrays are also eligible for nomination to the MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group.

members to build a foundation from which the NCRSG can work from to develop MPA proposals.

Similar to past study regions, complete external MPA arrays that include broad geographic coverage and outline details of MPAs, including specific boundaries and proposed regulations, will be forwarded by the MLPA Initiative for SAT, DFG, State Parks and MLPA Initiative staff evaluation, as well as review by the BRTF and the public. External proposed MPA arrays, along with their evaluation results, will be presented to the regional stakeholder group for consideration in MPA planning. Those involved in developing external MPA arrays are encouraged to attend MLPA workshops and MarineMap trainings, review the *Summary of MLPA Guidelines and MPA Array Evaluation Approaches* document and other support materials, and connect with MLPA Initiative staff for ongoing support.

### **Considering External MPA Arrays in the MLPA North Coast Study Region**

As in previous study regions, external MPA arrays can be valuable for informing the MPA design and planning process. Key considerations when developing an external MPA array include:

1. External arrays will be solicited for submission *no later than Monday, February 1, 2010*. These initial ideas developed in the first round of the MPA planning process will help inform the NCRSG's development of draft alternative MPA proposals. External proponents must submit an *Intent to Submit* form by Thursday, November 12, 2009. New external arrays will not be accepted after February 1, 2010.
2. Complete external arrays must present an integrated array of individual MPA's throughout the MLPA North Coast Study Region.
5. Complete external arrays submitted by February 1, 2010 will receive evaluations and feedback from the SAT, BRTF, California Department of Fish and Game, California State Parks, and MLPA Initiative staff.
4. Evaluated external arrays will be presented in March 2010 to the NCRSG for consideration during MPA planning.
6. Proposals for single MPAs or collections of MPAs with a narrow geographic focus will be made available to the NCRSG for potential consideration during the MPA planning process, though will not be included in evaluations from the SAT, DFG, State Parks, or MLPA Initiative staff.

Similar to other study regions, the NCRSG may incorporate individual MPA concepts from external arrays into draft proposals. Alternatively, NCRSG members may use entire external arrays as a starting place for developing draft proposals. NCRSG members may also choose to use boundary designs or particular regulations from external arrays.

### **Elements of Complete MPA Array Package**

External proposed MPA arrays must include several required elements to be considered "complete." Complete external arrays must be presented as an integrated array of MPA's throughout the MLPA North Coast Study Region; thus, proposals for individual MPA's or

collections of individual MPAs that focus only on a particular geographic area do not constitute a complete MPA array.

Required elements of a complete external MPA array are:

1. A completed 'Intent to Submit' form, which is to be submitted by Thursday, November 12, 2009.
2. A one-page cover sheet that includes the array name, list of contributors, and primary contact information.
2. A narrative rationale summary that describes the general approach taken to develop the complete MPA array, including a description of how the array helps meet the goals of the MLPA, as well as general rationale for MPA design. Note that this narrative summary should be no more than two pages in length.
3. A collection of specifically defined MPAs that will constitute a regional component of the statewide network (preferably submitted in MarineMap). The following information is required for each MPA:
  - a. MPA name (name should include geography reference and MPA designation).
  - b. Specific MPA boundaries. In MarineMap these boundaries will be determined by the drawing of the MPA. In addition, a written description of proposed boundaries is also required.
  - c. Proposed MPA designation. The potential MPA designation options include state marine reserve (SMR), state marine conservation area (SMCA), or state marine park (SMP).
  - d. Specific allowed uses, outlining the forms of commercial and/or recreational extraction that are allowed within the MPA.
  - e. Site-specific rationale for the MPA. This consists of one or two sentences that state the reason for placing an MPA in a particular location with particular regulations.
  - f. Other considerations for MPA design (optional). This may include issues that inform the development of an MPA, including socioeconomic or feasibility considerations.
  - g. Other regulated activities (optional). Information on other, non-fishing activities, may be included here.
4. A one-page document outlining the fate of existing MPAs. For each MPA that currently exists within the MLPA North Coast Study Region, proponents of external arrays must specify whether the proposal *retains* the MPA without change, *modifies* the boundaries and/or regulations of the MPA, or *removes* the MPA, as well as a one-sentence statement explaining the proposed action.

As with complete MPA proposals that will be generated by the NCRSG, complete external MPA arrays should be designed consistent with the Marine Life Protection Act and guidelines in the *California Marine Life Protection Act Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas*. In addition,

external arrays should consider additional guidance provided by the SAT, BRTF, DFG, California State Parks, and MLPA Initiative staff.

### **Other Suggestions for MPA Design**

While proposals for individual MPAs and simple collections of MPAs that focus on a particular geographic area will not be considered complete MPA arrays, these concepts may still inform MPA planning. Suggestions for MPA designs that do not constitute complete proposals may be submitted via email to [MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov](mailto:MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov) and will be provided to the NCRSG, though they will not be included in evaluations and feedback from the SAT, BRTF, DFG, California State Parks, or MLPA Initiative staff.

### **Submitting External Proposals**

External proposals must be received *no later than Monday, February 1, 2010*. It is preferable that all components of external proposals be submitted via an online tool called MarineMap (<http://northcoast.marinemap.org/marinemap>) to facilitate evaluation and feedback. A user name and password is required to develop MPA arrays using this tool; thus, individuals or organizations that are interested in submitting an MPA array using MarineMap should contact MLPA Initiative staff at [help@lists.marinemap.org](mailto:help@lists.marinemap.org). MarineMap training opportunities may be arranged for in person or online sessions upon request to the MLPA Initiative office at [MLPAOffice@resources.ca.gov](mailto:MLPAOffice@resources.ca.gov) or 916.654.1885.

While not preferred, MPA proposals that include all of the components listed above, but are not created using the MarineMap tool, will also be accepted. Proposals submitted in this manner may be sent via email, fax, or standard mail to the addresses provided below.

#### *E-mail*

[MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov](mailto:MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov)

#### *Fax*

916.653.8102

Attn: MLPA Initiative

#### *Mail*

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
c/o California Natural Resources Agency  
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Sacramento, CA 95814